

Coins

West Point turns mint, but there are no telltale marks

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE ANSWERS to some questions received from Tribune readers in the last few weeks:

Q—Somewhere I read that the government is making United States coins in West Point, N.Y. Is that true? If so, what mint mark do those coins carry? Also, why is it so hard to find "S" minted coins around here? — C.W., Chicago

A—Since early 1975, cents have been minted at the U.S. Bullion Depository in West Point. Also, some quarters have been made there. The coins carry no mint mark and cannot be distinguished from Philadelphia-minted coins that also carry no mint mark.

The West Point facility is not considered an official government mint, but a storage place for silver and gold bullion. (A well-researched article on the depository was published in the Jan. 19, 1977, issue of *Coin World*.)

Coins minted in San Francisco circulate primarily in the West. If you move to Phoenix, Ariz., or Los Angeles, you will find "S" mint coins plentiful.

Q—About two years ago, a dealer sold me a 1932-D quarter in what I thought was very fine condition. Now, a collector friend tells me the coin is in only very good condition, at best. Is there anything I can do? — T.N., Chicago Heights.

A—Of course, you should have looked carefully at the coin when you

purchased it to see if it was graded "as advertised." But since you didn't, I hope you at least kept a record of the purchase, including the dealer's name and address.

If so, write the dealer. Even at this late date, many dealers would respond and try to resolve the situation. If you bought the coin from an advertisement in a national coin periodical, send a copy of your letter to the publication. Most publications have advertising policies, and a staff member might follow up your letter with one of his or her own.

Q—I collected coins in the late 1950s and have long since sold my collection. However, I still have two Red Books, an 11th edition and a 12th edition (1958 and 1959). I'm told they are collector's items. Is that true? How could I sell them? — B.M., Chicago.

A—Yes, early editions of coin collecting's most popular reference by R.S. Yeoman are a collector's item. To find a buyer, check the classified advertisements in the two weekly coin newspapers.

In a recent edition of *Coin World*, for example, copies of the 11th and 12th editions in "new condition" were offered for sale at prices ranging from \$6.50 to \$9.50. Naturally, prices for earlier editions are higher.

Questions about coins and collecting? Send them to me, in care of Room 414, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago, Ill. 60611. But, please, do not send coins.